

atwood

UNIV OF
WISCONSIN

November 19, 1947.

Dear Kim & Barbara-

A bit of a lull has come over my work today, mostly because a chest cold made it difficult for me to concentrate on it, and this gives me time to write to you.

The post here is a good one, or will be when it is entirely integrated and the new lab is set up, budget straightened out, &c. Meantime, I am trying to work as best I can in a rather improvised setup. Such things as water baths, incubators, refrigerator space and so on have to be borrowed from other labs here in the Genetics building, and while everyone has been most cooperative it still makes it difficult to work efficiently. I have been spending most effort on collecting fermentation mutants in *E. coli* for comparative studies on enzymic specificities. I have the mutants now (quite a few lactose- and maltose- negatives) but am impeded mostly by need for Warburg equipment and the like for the measurement of enzyme activities. I can't do very much work on mutant transformations until I can get some better facilities for growing and collecting large quantities of bacteria. These will be provided for (except that the inflation wreaks havoc with any kind of budget one can write-- prices change while items are on order!!) but the delivery situation on scientific equipment is very poor even now.

There is no teaching to speak of-- 1 hrs' quiz section in elementary genetics, and an informal seminar in microbial genetics which is going over very well now. There is a lot of disperse interest on this campus in these issues, and this seminar seems to be crystallizing it out. If there were more room in the physical plant there would be better chance for expansion, but this is the most serious single limiting factor-- as it is in every other university.

As you know, the AAAS is meeting in Chicago this Christmas. Is there any chance of your being interested enough to come? Or is that not when KCA/III is expected. How is the youngster getting on?

We haven't found a decent place to live yet unfortunately, but prospects do appear occasionally and I hope to be settled before too long. Meanwhile we have not uncomfortable quarters in the University Housing project at Truax Field outside the city, more or less comparable to the Camp Shanks project. Give our best to FJR and the gang, and let's hear from you.

Sincerely,

atwood.